

*Salter*  
TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

*For the year 1953*

---

W. J. BIRCHALL,  
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

G. T. WOODS,  
M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A.



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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE  
TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT

*For the year 1953*

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Tarvin Rural District for the year 1953.

The National Vital Statistics show a slight increase in the Birth and Death Rates, and a decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate. Locally there is a slight decrease in the Birth Rate, and a pronounced decrease in the general Death and Infant Mortality Rates, which are the lowest on record.

Measles (164 cases), Pneumonia (41), Whooping Cough (32) and Scarlet Fever (24) were the chief Infectious Diseases notified. For the sixth successive year no cases of Diphtheria were reported.

From the very full report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, it is pleasing to note the satisfactory results of analysis of samples of ice cream in the district.

It is observed that progress in mains water supplies brings additional drainage problems in areas where there is no sewerage scheme, and it is hoped that sewerage schemes will proceed where necessary without delay, and thus relieve these difficult drainage problems.

I wish to thank Mr. Woods, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the staff of the Health Department for their invaluable help in

compiling this Report and their great assistance and loyal co-operation throughout the year.

Included at the end of the Report, is my Annual Report as Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services operating in the South West Cheshire Division, of which Tarvin Rural District forms part.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

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## TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL General Provision of Health Services for the Area

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### MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Councillor Charles Moss (Chairman).

„ J. Johnson (Vice-Chairman).  
„ L. N. Jones.  
„ T. B. Stevenson.  
„ H. E. Mottershead.  
„ F. Newport.  
„ P. Matthews.  
„ H. Fleet.  
„ G. W. Penk.  
„ J. G. Harding.  
„ Rev. E. H. Barnes.  
„ H. G. Lloyd.  
„ H. Lewis.

### Ex-Officio:

„ J. C. Wolley Dod, J.P. (Chairman of the Council).  
„ R. N. Salmon (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

#### Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B. (Hons.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H.

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector, Rodent Officer and Petroleum Officer:**

G. T. Woods, M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute; Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection; Certificate of the R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works; Examination of Institution of Sanitary Engineers; Home Office C.D. Panel of Examiners.

### **Additional Sanitary Inspectors:**

G. P. Walpole, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

R. Mason, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection; Home Office Civil Defence Instructor's Special Certificate.

**Clerk:** G. P. Davies.

**Clerk-Typist:** Miss Dorothy Hughes to October.  
Miss Jean Rock from November.

**Rodent Operative:** E. H. Blackburn.

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## **MEDICAL SERVICES**

### **(a) Laboratory Facilities.**

The services of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead, and of Harold Lowe, Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C., Assay Office, are utilised for bacteriological and chemical examinations respectively.

### **(b) Ambulance Facilities.**

Cases of infectious disease are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge. Cases of sickness and accident are removed to the Chester Royal Infirmary or the General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by the ambulance of the Cheshire County Council supplemented by the Chester City Ambulances as an Agency Service.

### **(c) Nursing in the Home.**

There are District Nurses engaged in all the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit the homes in the District for the purposes of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child-welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics**, including clinics solely for the area are as follows:—

Farndon, Tattenhall, Tarvin, Kelsall and Malpas—Infant Welfare.

Hoole—Ante and Post Natal, Infant Welfare, Orthopaedic, Dental and Speech Therapy.

Chester—Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis.

Northwich—Scabies Treatment.

(e) **Hospitals.**

The General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are, in addition, smaller Cottage Hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area, viz. Tarporley and Whitchurch.

Larger Hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool; for example, the Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester City Hospital, etc.

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## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area — 62,593 acres.

Population, estimated by Registrar General, Midyear, 1953	14,640
Number of inhabited houses including shops with living accommodation according to Rate Books (end of 1953)	4,985
Number of houses built (i.e. completed in 1953):	
Private Enterprise	20
Council Houses	65
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1953	£79,519
Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1953	£312

The area is almost entirely agricultural and residential, farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1953

#### Births.

LIVE BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	123	103	226
Illegitimate	6	8	14
	129	111	240

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	16.39
Register General's Comparability Factor for Births	1.05
Corrected Birth Rate	17.21
<b>STILL BIRTHS</b>	
Male	Male
Legitimate	1
Illegitimate	1
	—
	—
	—
	—
Total	5
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	20.41
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident populaton	0.34

#### TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH RATES

	ENG. AND			ENG. AND		
	TARVIN R.D. WALES			TARVIN R.D. WALES		
1936	13.2	14.8	1945	15.9	16.1	
1937	15.7	14.9	1946	19.5	19.1	
1938	14.9	15.1	1947	20.7	20.5	
1939	15.7	15.0	1948	22.6	17.9	
1940	15.0	14.6	1949	17.9	16.7	
1941	15.8	14.2	1950	18.0	15.8	
1942	17.6	15.8	1951	17.1	15.5	
1943	18.5	16.5	1952	18.4	15.3	
1944	17.7	17.6	1953	17.2	15.5	

#### Deaths.

MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
81	78	159

Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.86
Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Deaths	0.91
Corrected Death Rate	9.88

#### TABLE OF COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES

	ENG. AND			ENG. AND		
	TARVIN R.D. WALES			TARVIN R.D. WALES		
1936	13.3	12.1	1945	12.9	11.4	
1937	10.9	12.4	1946	13.6	11.5	
1938	11.5	11.6	1947	12.7	12.0	
1939	13.7	12.1	1948	12.3	10.8	
1940	14.1	14.3	1949	11.0	11.7	
1941	10.7	12.9	1950	11.6	11.6	
1942	10.1	11.6	1951	12.3	12.5	
1943	11.3	12.1	1952	11.4	11.3	
1944	12.6	11.6	1953	9.9	11.4	

### Maternal Mortality (excluding Abortion)

From Puerperal Sepsis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
From other Puerperal or Maternal Causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	81

### TABLE SHOWING NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION

1936	.....	.....	2	1945	.....	.....	.....	57
1937	.....	.....	50	1946	.....	.....	.....	85
1938	.....	.....	52	1947	.....	.....	.....	117
1939	.....	.....	22	1948	.....	.....	.....	80
1940	.....	.....	13	1949	.....	.....	.....	96
1941	.....	.....	80	1950	.....	.....	.....	77
1942	.....	.....	112	1951	.....	.....	.....	39
1943	.....	.....	104	1952	.....	.....	.....	73
1944	.....	.....	71	1953	.....	.....	.....	81

### INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	3	1	4
	—	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate, i.e. deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births ..... 16.7

### TABLE OF COMPARATIVE INFANT MORTALITY RATES

	ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES		ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES	
1936	71.4	59	1945	58.8
1937	70.8	58	1946	56.5
1938	52.2	53	1947	59.6
1939	63.1	50	1948	46.3
1940	53.6	55	1949	23.1
1941	51.2	59	1950	26.7
1942	26.5	49	1951	33.6
1943	30.0	49	1952	35.3
1944	40.0	46	1953	16.7
				26.8

### NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under FOUR WEEKS of age:—

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	1	1
	—	—	—

## DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—
Cancer of all sites	8	16
Meningococcal infections	—	1
Diabetes	1	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	10	17
Heart disease	38	30
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	1
Influenza	2	2
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia	6	1
Other respiratory diseases	—	1
Nephritis	4	1
Prostate	3	—
Abortion	—	1
Congenital malformations; Birth injuries	—	—
Road traffic accidents	1	—
Other violent	2	2
All other causes	3	3
 Total all causes	 81	 78
	—	—

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 24; in the previous year there were 26.

Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 68 compared with 66 in 1952.

Deaths from Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions were 27; there were 27 in 1952.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1953

DISEASE	TOTAL	CASES		DEATHS
	CASES	NOTIFIED	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	24	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Enteric and Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	41	—	—	4
Cerebro spinal meningitis	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—
Measles	164	—	—	—

Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	32	—	—
Totals	262	1	4

### NUMBER OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED IN THE DISTRICT

1936	25	1945	5
1937	10	1946	2
1938	35	1947	1
1939	15	1948	—
1940	27	1949	—
1941	17	1950	—
1942	9	1951	—
1943	6	1952	—
1944	4	1953	—

### TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during the year 1953

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	—

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

The Council have powers under the above Act to arrange for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

I am glad to record that there has been no need for me to represent compulsory removal for any of the cases investigated during the year. The provision of a home help and benevolent supervision by the sanitary inspector and health visitor have proved sufficient to remedy undesirable conditions and permit the patient to remain in his or her own home with its familiar associations.

## CANCER RESEARCH

The Council are co-operating with other authorities in the Liverpool Region in further statistical research sponsored by the B.E.C.C.

This is in relation to certain types of the disease and covers a wide and detailed enquiry into particular cases. The part played by your Public Health Department is to seek special information regarding the site of the dwelling and take samples of soil from the vegetable garden, fruit growing ground or other plots in selected cases.

These samples are sent to Professor Charles Evans, of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry at Bangor University for examination and classification. The investigation is under the control of Dr. Percy Stocks of Chester.

Results for a trial period during 1952/3 have encouraged the investigators to continue this line of research and expressions of appreciation for this Council's co-operation have been received.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### (1) Water.

Piped supplies of water are available in the following Parishes of the District:—

PARISHES	SUPPLY
1. Ashton, Mouldsworth and Horton-cum-Peel.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s own source from Springs and Bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation.
2. Kelsall, Tarvin, Pryors Hayes, part of Bruen Stapleford, most of Duddon and Hockenhull.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s Bulk supply from Mid. & S.E. Cheshire Water Board. (Eddisbury Bore-hole).
3. Iddenshall and Clotton Hoo-field.	do.
4. Bickley.	Tarvin R.D.C. from Liverpool Corporation, Vyrnwy Aqueduct per Mid. & S.E. Cheshire Water Board's Mains.
5. Broxton.	do.
6. Burwardsley.	do.
7. Tiverton, Tilstone Fearnall and Beeston.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s Bulk Supply from Liverpool Corporation.

8.	Tattenhall, Huxley and part of Newton-by-Tattenhall, part of Golborne Bellow and part of Hatton.	do.
9.	Hampton, part of Edge and Macefen.	do.
10.	Malpas, Cuddington, part of Chorlton, part of Wychough, part of Agden, part of Oldcastle and part of Overton.	do.
11.	Tushingham (part).	do.
12.	Thrapwood.	do.
13.	Farndon, Churton-by-Farndon, Churton-by-Alford and Edgerly.	Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Co.
14.	Part of Chorlton.	Private Estate Supply, borehole and small reservoir, Chorlton Hall.
15.	Part of Edge.	Private Estate supply to Edge Hall.
16.	Willington.	Willington Estate.
17.	Aldersey and Coddington.	Aldersey Estate.
18.	Barton, Stretton, Carden and part of Clutton.	Carden Estate.
19.	Harthill.	Bolesworth Estate from Tarvin R.D.C.'s mains.
20.	Waverton.	Chester Waterworks Co.
21.	Cotton Edmunds and Cotton Abbots.	Eaton Estate, Chester Waterworks Co.
22.	Shocklach (part)	Tarvin R.D.C. borehole and elevated tank.
23.	Tilston Council Houses.	Private do

#### Water Main Schemes Approved or in Preparation.

Tilston (2nd Sec.).	Crewe-by-Farndon.
Hob Hill and Lowcross Hill, Tilston.	Edge Lane, Edge.
Tushingham.	Bruen Stapleford.
Tilston Fearnall (Improvement).	Carrs Lane, Tattenhall.

Particulars of the number of premises supplied by the Council's mains at December, 1953, are as follows:—

PARISH	DOMESTIC	TRADE	TOTAL
Agden	3	3	6
Ashton	112	15	127
Beeston	52	24	76
Bickley	57	44	101
Bradley	—	4	4
Broxton	97	45	142
Bruen Stapleford	7	9	16
Burwardsley	53	39	92
Chorlton	7	6	13
Chowley	2	2	4
Clotton Hoofield	32	35	67
Cuddington	18	20	38
Duddon	29	9	38
Edge	28	17	45
Foulk Stapleford	—	1	1
Golborne Bellow	20	4	24
Golborne David	4	10	14
Hampton	54	24	78
Handley	49	9	58
Hatton	7	12	19
Hockenhull	3	1	4
Horton-cum-Peel	6	1	7
Huxley	34	22	56
Iddenshall	4	2	6
Kelsall	283	40	323
Larkton	2	1	3
Macefen	12	8	20
Malpas	368	76	444
Mouldsworth	63	19	82
Newton-by-Malpas	1	1	2
Newton-by-Tattenhall	18	11	29
Oldcastle	1	10	11
Overton	4	4	8
Pryors Hayes	3	1	4
Shocklach Church	5	1	6
Shocklach Oviatt	2	—	2
Stockton	—	4	4
Tarvin	361	76	437
Tattenhall	258	77	335
Threapwood	36	30	66
Tilston	21	—	21
Tilstone Fearnall	22	7	29
Tiverton	135	36	171
Tushingham	4	7	11
Wychough	—	2	2
	2277	769	3046

No. of Standpipes supplied from the mains:—

PARISH		NUMBER	CONSUMERS
Edge	....	1	35
Beeston	....	1	10
Hampton	....	3	20
Newton/Tattenhall	....	1	15
Oldcastle	....	1	2

Number of premises supplied by other Public Water Undertakings for which figures are available are as follows:—

PARISH	DOMESTIC	TRADE	TOTAL	UNDERTAKING
Waverton	116	15	131	Chester Waterworks Company.
Edgerly	1	—	1	Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company.
Churton-by-Aldford	50	2	52	do.
Churton-by-Farndon	27	—	27	do.
Farndon	165	4	169	do.
	359	21	380	

Estimated population supplied:—

By Tarvin R.D. Council	....	....	....	9603
By Chester Waterworks Co.	....	....	....	480
By Wrexham & East Denbighshire Water Co.	....	....	....	1004
				11087

This represents approximately 76% of the total population of the District supplied by mains water. A number of consumers however are supplied by Estate Supplies, Private Systems, and boreholes, etc. The actual percentage of water consumers with supplies laid on is considerably in excess of this figure.

During the year approximately 53/4 miles of water main were laid by the Council in the District, and in consequence the Council now administer approximately 102 1/4 miles of mains.

The additional new mains are as follows:—

	YARDS
Agden	5760
Platt's Lane, Hatton	470
Tilston Site	210
Hatton Heath	600
Simmonds Green, Edge	530
Overton (Overton Farm)	230
Threapwood	730

Tiverton Site	60
Beeston Site	50
Duddon Site	37
Oldcastle	1000
Huxley (Hargrave)	483
	10160 yards

#### Water Schemes in Progress.

ESTIMATED COST

£

Newton-by-Tattenhall	3865
Gatesheath—Rookery, Tattenhall	2595
Tarvin Site	350
Cuddington—Oldcastle	2350

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

#### Schemes completed during the year:—

**Farndon Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.** Scheme completed and connections to sewer available.

**Tilston Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.** Sewage works completed—laying of sewers completed up to the Rookery Road Housing Site.

#### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes in Progress.

**Tilston** Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme. Work on laying sewers in progress.

**Ashton** Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works. Construction of the works in progress.

**Beeston.** Negotiations completed during the year for the transfer of the existing works from the Cheshire County Council to the Tarvin Rural District Council.

#### Schemes in Preparation.

**Waverton.** Amended scheme to Ministry's requirements in course of preparation.

**Kelsall.** Ministry awaiting submission of Northwich Rural District Council's proposals before holding of Public Inquiry.

**Tarvin.** Scheme submitted to the Ministry.

# REPORT OF THE Chief Sanitary Inspector *For the Year ending December, 1953*

---

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

From my report it will be seen that food inspection, private house repairs and council house tenancies have constituted a major part of the Department's work during the year, and there has been continued progress in improved sanitation involving the preparation of new schemes of small sewage disposal works for farms and cottages. The attitude of some other cottagers who have installed modern television sets inside, yet tolerate the most primitive sanitation outside is surprising.

Progress is reported in the rehousing of families in overcrowded conditions or living in substandard houses on which suitable action has been taken under the Housing Act.

As these notes are written in retrospect the date in 1954 of the decontrol of meat has been fixed for July 5th, and all the manifold problems for the Council associated with private slaughter will have to be faced. The high standard of meat inspection which has been exercised in the past over centralised slaughter will be maintained by your inspectors.

I must acknowledge the team work of my staff throughout the year and thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence and support.

To Dr. W. J. Birchall, Medical Officer of Health, I express grateful thanks for his co-operation and assistance in solving those difficult problems which arise from time to time.

Your obedient servant,

G. T. WOODS,  
M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A.

## WATER

During the year regular samples were taken from every main supply of the Statutory undertakers in the District.

In addition many isolated supplies were sampled for analysis and in cases of adverse results, reports were made to your Works and Planning Committee for consideration for mains extensions where suitable. In all cases where a polluted supply was found, full investigations on the site were made to determine the source of pollution and its prevention. Reports on certain of these cases are appended.

A total of 126 water samples were taken during the year, made up of 70 samples taken from local supplies and 56 from the mains.

These were analysed at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead.

The classification of results of water analyses is made as suggested in the Ministry of Health's Report on "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies" based on the Presumptive Coli count taken in conjunction with the type of supply.

### Waters are graded as follows:—

TREATED WATERS	PRESUMPTIVE COLI PER 100 ML.
Class 1. Highly Satisfactory .... .... .... .... .... ....	Less than 1
2. Satisfactory .... .... .... .... .... ....	1-2
3. Suspicious .... .... .... .... .... ....	3-10
4. Unsatisfactory .... .... .... .... .... ....	Over 10

### UNTREATED WATERS

Class A.	Satisfactory .... .... .... .... .... ....	Under 10
B.	Fairly Satisfactory .... .... .... .... ....	10-25
C.	Suspicious .... .... .... .... .... ....	25-50
D.	Unsatisfactory .... .... .... .... .... ....	50-75
E.	Very unsatisfactory .... .... .... .... ....	Over 75

56 samples were taken from mains supplies of Statutory undertakers which resulted as

46 Highly satisfactory or Class 1;

9 Fairly satisfactory or Class 2;

1 Suspicious or Class 3;

— Unsatisfactory or Class 4.

70 samples were analysed from the untreated waters from isolated supplies, with the following results:

- A. 49 .... .... .... .... .... .... from 31 premises.
- B. 5 .... .... .... .... .... .... from 5 premises.
- C. 4 .... .... .... .... .... .... from 4 premises.
- D. 3 .... .... .... .... .... .... from 3 premises.
- E. 9 .... .... .... .... .... .... from 6 premises.

As requested by the Ministry the following are brief reports of action taken following unsatisfactory samples taken from isolated supplies.

1. **Shallow well, Hargrave** (cottage). Satisfactory check samples followed after cleansing and repair of the pump.
2. **Shallow well, Agden** (cottage). This cottage has now been connected to the mains water supply.
3. **Shallow well, Horton-by-Malpas** (cottage). No main available, cleaned and chlorinated as a temporary measure. Users advised to boil.
4. **Wayside dip well, Malpas Road, Tilston** (4 cottages). Main supply in the near future. All users advised to boil.
5. **Public pump, Caldecott Green** (Deep well—serves 4 cottages). Remedied by cleaning and repair. Check samples satisfactory.
6. **Bore water, Quoisley Bridge, Tushingham** (farm). Three samples unsatisfactory. No mains available. Advised to boil.
7. **Shallow well, roadside pump, Shocklach Green, Shocklach**. No mains available, advised to boil.

## HOUSING

Further progress has been made during the year in the improvement and repairs of house property, and the reconditioning by private owners of some of the many old rural cottages in the District has been carried out and others are proposed.

There is a very definite reluctance of some tenants of sub-standard but cheap dwellings to accept a council house when offered, owing to the great difference in the rents of their old cottage and a modern council house. In face of difficulties your Sanitary Officers have persuaded the owners of a great many of these old cottages to carry out repairs and improvements regardless of the fact that the cost is uneconomic on a restricted rental.

In all cases where tenants of substandard dwellings were granted the tenancy of a council house because of the low standard of their accommodation, procedure under the Housing Act, 1936, or more recently the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1953, has been initiated. This prevents the re-occupation of such places until they have been brought up to a minimum standard or else demolished.

I am glad to be able to report that with materials in better supply there has been greater willingness on the part of private owners of suitable property to carry out improvements in sanitary facilities. This has been helped by the increase in the number of owner occupiers, where, for example, an old cottage has been sold to the sitting tenant or occupied by the owner when vacated by the tenant.

## Overcrowding.

An accurate figure for the number of houses or families overcrowded cannot be given without carrying out a current District Survey.

It is known, however, from 208 housing applications investigated by the Department that in 1953 the overcrowding of 39 families comprising 160 persons was relieved by the provision of a council house.

It will be seen from the table of statistics that the number of informal notices requiring repairs have increased on the previous year, but it was found necessary to serve only one statutory notice on an owner under the Housing Act, 1936, Section 9. Work in regard to this, was in progress at the end of the year.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health & Housing Acts) ....	453
(ii) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations (Housing Applications) ....	208
(iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ....	12
(iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous subhead) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	160

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered reasonably fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ....	145
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs ....	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices ....	Nil
(3) Outstanding at end of 1953 ....	1
(b) Proceedings under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936.	
Number of premises on which Demolition Orders were made ....	6

Number of premises on which Undertakings were offered by owners .....	5
Number of premises on which Undertakings were accepted by the Council .....	5
(c) Proceedings under Section 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953.	
Number of premises on which Closing Orders were made .....	1
Number of premises on which a Closing Order was substituted for a Demolition Order .....	Nil
(d) Public Health Act, 1936.	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	Nil
Outstanding at end of 1953 .....	Nil

### Council House Tenancies.

The records of housing applications, and tenancies are kept by the Public Health Department who supply full reports on the housing need of each applicant after investigations by a visit to the house by one of your Sanitary Officers.

This procedure enables the local Selection Committees when framing recommendations to the Housing Committee, to have reliable reports on the state of the applicant's dwelling, any over-crowding, the type of tenant, and any confidential health grounds such as pulmonary tuberculosis etc. of any members of the family, from the records kept by the department, and other confidential information supplied by the family doctor.

During the year the Housing Applications Register was revised and every applicant on the old register circularised and requested to re-apply.

This revision of the Register disclosed several applicants who had left the District or obtained satisfactory accommodation without notification to the Department.

As compared with July when applications on the old Register totalled 288, at the close of the year the new Register of applications totalled 196 comprising 54 from applicants in agricultural employment and 142 from other workers.

New council houses occupied during the year totalled 65 of which 16 were for tenants employed in agriculture. A large number of the new tenants comprised young married people with children or couples in rooms who desired a family. Thirty nine cases of over-crowding were relieved.

Total number of council houses tenanted at Dec. 31st, 1953 .....	546
Total number of above with tenants in agriculture .....	179

## POST WAR HOUSING

### New Houses Tenanted between Jan. 1st — Dec. 31st

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Ttl.
Ashton .... .... ....	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6	12
Beeston .... .... ....	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	4	10
Nomansheath,									
Bickley .... ....	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Broxton .... .... ....	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Clutton .... .... ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	10
Coddington .... ....	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	4
Duddon .... .... ....	—	8	—	—	—	—	4	2	14
Edge .... .... ....	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Farndon .... .... ....	—	3	21	—	—	—	10	10	44
Gatesheath .... ....	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	8
Huxley .... .... ....	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	4
Kelsall .... .... ....	—	8	—	—	9	13	14	—	44
Malpas .... .... ....	—	—	11	27	—	—	14	13	65
Oscroft .... .... ....	—	—	4	2	2	—	—	—	8
Shocklach .... ....	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Tarvin .... .... ....	—	4	—	—	6	—	6	10	26
Tattenhall									
(Edgecroft) .... ....	1*	1*	—	4	2	—	—	—	8
Tattenhall .... .... ....	—	16	—	3	13	2	4	12	50
Tilston .... .... ....	—	—	8	—	4	—	—	8	20
Tiverton .... .... ....	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	—	8
Waverton .... .... ....	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
Total ....	1	46	48	49	55	30	67	65	361

1\* Conversion of large house to two dwellings.

This table is compiled from the dates at which rent commenced.

### Housing of Old People.

Over the past few years the Council have made special provision for the housing of elderly couples or single persons by the provision of two bedroom bungalows on their housing sites at Malpas (14 bungalows), Tattenhall (4 bungalows) and Beeston (2 bungalows).

The primary purpose of these bungalows is to provide suitable accommodation with all modern conveniences for those older Council tenants who under-occupy a three or four bedroom council house, in order to release such a family house for a suitable applicant from the register.

When such transfers are satisfied similar suitable occupants of private houses are accommodated, and in some cases at the request of the Department the owner of a house vacated has agreed to accept a suitable new tenant from the Council's register.

Proposals are in hand for further bungalows at Malpas, Tattenhall, Tilston, Ashton, Farndon and Kelsall.

There is other accommodation provided for old people at the Maria Taylor Almshouses and the Cholmondeley Alms-houses at Malpas. Proposals for the reconstruction and improvement of the Cholmondeley Almshouses with the help of grant aid have been approved by the Council. Improvements to the Maria Taylor Almshouses are under discussion.

#### **Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953.**

This Act came into operation during the year and makes provision for certain Demolition Orders to be substituted by Closing Orders on the written application of the owner to the Council.

No applications were received during 1953.

One Closing Order was made under this Act in respect of a semi-detached cottage. Five other houses were closed for human habitation after vacation by means of Undertakings under the Housing Act 1936 as to their future use for other purposes.

#### **Housing Acts, 1949/52.**

Applications for improvement grants were received in respect of five houses. The conversion of the six Cholmondeley Almshouses at Malpas to four houses with improved amenities was approved by the Council and the Ministry, and a grant of £297 16s. 0d. per house was made.

For the improvement of a cottage at Crewe by Farndon a grant of £200 was approved.

At the end of the year further applications were pending.

#### **Regulation 68a.**

Housing conditions in the district are still such as to warrant the renewal of existing licences issued under Regulation 68a of the Defence Regulations to permit occupation of condemned cottages which are maintained up to a minimum standard of fitness. Three such licences were renewed during the year in respect of premises on which Demolition Orders are operative, at Oscroft, Farndon and Malpas. No new first licences are now permitted to be issued.

#### **Premises under Requisition.**

The last four houses, respectively situated at Tattenhall, Malpas, Threapwood and Farndon, were released from requisition during 1953. No private houses are now held under requisition.

#### **Squatters.**

The old army camp at Beeston, which consisted of four wooden huts plus one nissen hut used as a wash-house, had been reduced to two huts and the nissen wash-house at the close of the

year. Two wooden huts have been sold during 1953 after re-housing of the occupants.

The tenant of one of the remaining two huts was re-housed by the Council in the last week of 1953, and this hut will not again be permitted to be occupied.

There now remains one family of 6 adults and 4 children in the remaining occupied wooden hut.

## DRAINAGE

I am glad to report that the provision of modern sanitation and appliances in existing dwellings in the District continues to grow. Many old cottages have been reconditioned without grant aid and expressions of appreciation of the assistance given by the Department have been received from owners. The demand for practical advice in the design, layout and construction of sewage treatment works to isolated premises, grows with the increase of mains water supplies, and it is rarely now that an impervious cesspool is installed with its need for regular emptying, in preference to the continuous flow system of treatment and disposal.

It is gratifying to find that much of the recent Report of The Third Seminar for Sanitary Engineers sponsored by the World Health Organisation on the Design and Operation of Septic Tanks, which includes American and Continental practice, is in accord with the principles which have been advocated in the Tarvin Rural District for several years. In my view there is a pressing need for further research into the problem of an economical method of treatment of shippion and piggery effluents.

During the year eighty three drainage schemes were deposited and approved. All involved several visits of your inspectors to the sites and incorporated amendments and improvements suggested as a result of such investigations. Many requests for advice on existing septic tank installations were also received by the Department even from outside this District.

Users of new installations are advised as to the necessity of proper maintenance to avoid trouble in operation.

### Rivers and Streams.

The Tarvin Rural District is in the area of the River Dee and Clwyd Catchment Board and close co-operation exists between your Public health officers and the Board's officials. One case of alleged pollution from a sewage effluent is being dealt with by an extended system of land treatment before discharge.

The sewerage schemes for Ashton, Kelsall, Tarvin and Waverton should cure the several cases of pollution of streams known to exist in these areas.

## General Sanitation.

### Closet Accommodation.

New dwelling houses erected during the year by private enterprise have all been supplied with water closets. In addition there has been a number of conversions of pails and privy middens to water closets in the several cases of older premises having improvements carried out to their internal sanitation.

All council houses built had water closets installed.

During the year a further 34 pail or chemical closets were converted or abolished by private owners. 121 water closets were installed.

The approximate figures for the whole district at the end of 1953 were:—

Privy middens	....	....	....	....	....	....	507
Pail closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	1870
Water closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	2669
							5046

## Refuse and Salvage.

This is a branch of the Public Health Service which appears to be appreciated only when it stops (for example—during heavy snow or dangerously iced roads) or when the regular schedules are thrown out because of sickness, holidays or breakdowns.

Despite all the new building carried out since the war, and the hundreds of extra dustbins supplied by the Council and private owners which require regular emptying, the refuse collection service has so far been carried on with a reduced labour force, by reason of re-organisation of schedules. It is very evident that this state of affairs cannot continue indefinitely and at least one extra man must be replaced very soon.

At the end of the year the service consisted of two Dennis 10 cubic yards and one Austin 7 cubic yards waggons manned by eight men and the foreman. Disposal is by controlled tipping. The tipping site at Saughton Lane, Waverton, was put into use during the year and should serve for some time to come. The present large tips used are situated at Clotton, Waverton, Barton, Malpas and Bickley Moss, there are small tips at Tiverton and Burwardsley. During the year trespassers on the tip at Malpas started a fire, which extended into the tip and in consequence this site will remain closed for a period to permit of proper settlement.

A large area of marsh land at Clotton has been reclaimed by controlled tipping and is now growing corn. A further area is nearing completion.

The department took over the new depot and garage at Tattenhall Road on February 1st, 1953, and this accommodation has solved the problems of garaging, storage, maintenance and repairs facilities.

At this depot, hot water etc. are provided for the men to wash, and there is also accommodation for them to change their wet working clothes before going home. In addition to baling and storage of salvage the Depot is also used for storing materials used on rodent control and vermin destruction.

The following table shows details of sales of salvage which were made during the year ending March 31st, 1954 compared with those of the previous twelve months.

	1953-54	Prev. Year.
Waste Paper .....	£125 14 11	£108 9 2
Scrap Metal .....	17 6 10	16 2 6
Rags and Sacking .....	— — —	32 14 5
Bones .....	— — —	4 1 4
	£143 1 9	£161 7 5

### Camping Sites.

No licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, have been issued by the Council during the year, in relation to sites or individual movable dwellings.

Control under the Town and Country Planning Act is in operation with respect to certain caravans brought into the District for permanent residence.

There is one site for five caravans approved under planning control.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The year has been a very busy one for the Departments' officers with materials in better supply for housing repairs; and as mentioned under the section of Housing a great deal has been done in the District by the officials of the Department in relation to improvements.

Informal requests and persuasion are used as far as possible before cases are reported to Committee for official statutory action. This explains the low number of formal notices served, as only informal action is usually necessary.

The following list gives an indication of part of your Inspectors activities during 1953 where such are not dealt with elsewhere in this report.

Informal Notices served re housing defects .....	160
"      "      "      " unsatisfactory water supply .....	32
"      "      "      " defective drainage .....	45

"	"	"	dirty conditions .... .... ....	6
"	"	"	provision of dustbins .... ....	25
"	"	"	insanitary closets .... .... ....	10
"	"	"	foul ditches .... .... .... ....	15
"	"	"	leaking gutters & downspouts	2
"	"	"	offensive accumulations .... ....	15
"	"	"	Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ....	8
"	"	"	rat infestations .... .... ....	10
"	"	"	defects in factories .... .... ....	1
"	"	"	Petroleum Spirit Stores .... ....	6
"	"	"	food premises .... .... .... ....	24
"	"	"	licenced premises .... .... .... ....	1
No. of written complaints received at the office .... .... ....				341

In addition many complaints are made verbally to the inspectors during their District work or by visits or by telephone to the inspector's private houses. This is a growing practice, not altogether desirable for the private life of officials.

### Shops.

The Council is responsible for the enforcement of the Shops Act, 1950 in respect to the ventilation, lighting, temperature, and sanitary accommodation of shops in the district where labour is employed.

One case of defective or dirty sanitary accommodation was found. The occupier was warned and the necessary work was carried out.

### Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948.

Eighty-nine factories are on the register. These include eighteen non-power and sixty-two power, (including nine building sites). Following inspection a written notice to remedy defects was served on one occupier. This was complied with without further action. Other cases found were dealt with by verbal caution.

### Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Premises	Number on Register	Number of inspections	Notices served
(1)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities .... .... .... .... .... ....	18	24	1
(2)	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .... .... .... .... .... ....	62	65	—
(3)	Roadworks and Building Sites .... ....	9	17	—
	Totals ....	89	106	1

### **Outworkers.**

There were no outworkers on the register during 1953.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

Observations on various commercial chimneys were carried out from time to time. A factory chimney at Tarvin was seen to be producing black smoke for long periods and investigation revealed that one of the two boilers was out of action for repairs. These were speeded up and the overloading stopped.

A complaint was received concerning fumes from a works adjoining the border of this District but situated in the area of a neighbouring authority. Representations were made on the matter, and which was settled by co-operation of the parties concerned.

### **Swimming Baths.**

There are no public swimming baths in the District.

### **Eradication of Insect Vermin.**

Where premises are found infested with bed bugs, treatment with Coopers D.D.T. bed bug spray is used and found effective. Ten dwelling houses were treated against vermin during the year, (four for fleas, and six for cockroaches).

Gammexane is issued to tenants whose dwellings show evidence of cockroaches.

D.D.T. tip dressing is found very effective in destroying infestations of crickets on the Council's tips during the summer months.

Wettable D.D.T. to mix with limewash is sold at cost to the occupiers of slaughterhouses and similar premises in the District to minimise the fly nuisance in hot weather. Liquid concentrate of D.D.T. is sold to residents on application to the office.

## **RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION**

Since the operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council have been the statutory body with increased responsibilities and powers to deal with the destruction of rats and mice on all properties; agricultural as well as non-agricultural.

The service is subject to a 50% grant under approved conditions and kept as self supporting as far as possible. The very nature of the service however creates the position that the more successfully the Council clear premises of rat infestation the less is the demand for renewed contracts from satisfied users, until re-infestation occurs.

The Council's several tips, sewers, sewerage works and other properties are regularly inspected and disinfected as found necessary.

The first of the bi-annual 10% test baiting of the Council's sewers during the year showed a negative return on all systems, which was very satisfactory.

The Council are members of Workable Area Committee No. 23 which meets to discuss new technique or instructions brought to the meeting by the Divisional Rodent Officer of the region and the Ministry's scientific experts. Your representatives on this Committee are Councillor Matthews and the Rodent Officer. Difficulties and differences are aired at these meetings and advice given and received.

The following table shows the activities of your Rodent Operative for the year ending December, 1953.

No. of visits made .....	1,552
No. of contracts treated (Other than Council Properties)	39
No. of Council Properties treated .....	47
Amount of bait laid .....	13,116 ozs.
Amount of poison used .....	415 ozs.
Number of dead rats picked up .....	1,011
Number of dead mice picked up .....	63
Amount of poison bait laid .....	4,525 ozs.
Amount of poison gas used .....	4 ozs.

### **Knackers Yard.**

A licence in respect of a Knacker's yard at Malpas was renewed.

### **Schools.**

An improvement to the sanitary accommodation at Threapwood school has been carried out and Duddon School is to be connected to the new sewer.

Other desirable improvements to schools sanitary accommodation have been raised with the Education Authority.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

68 premises in the District where food is prepared, offered or exposed for sale have been frequently visited during the year. Dairy farms are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

This routine work of your inspectors is of great importance to ensure that properly clean conditions and methods are observed in preparing food for sale to the public. A number of improvements have been carried out at the several small caterers in the District who provide for hikers, cyclists and motorists visiting Tarvin Rural District.

The premises known to the Department as being engaged in the handling preparations or the sale of food include:—

Ice Cream retailers	41
Cafes (no cooked meals)	9
Restaurants (cooked meals)	12
Licenced premises	41
Abattoirs	3
Butchers Shops	16
Bakeries	14
Other miscellaneous (Grocers, confectioners etc.)	38
Fried Fish Shops	4

Verbal cautions were given in nine cases where the condition of the premises had been allowed to deteriorate. Complete reconstruction of one food kitchen was carried out after representations to the owners.

#### Milk.

The supervision of milk production is in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries but random samples of milk are taken by the County Council for biological examination.

Milk distributors are registered and Dealers' and Supplementary Licences are still issued by the District Council.

No. of Registered Milk Distributors	11
No. of Dealers Licences issued	7
No. of Supplementary Licences issued	6

#### Regulation 20. Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

No action was found necessary during the year in regard to the restriction on the sale of infected or suspected milk.

In 7 cases of milk borne disease contacts were excluded from milking cows or handling milk vessels.

#### Ice Cream.

41 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, almost all these are limited to the pre-wrapped product which is less likely to be contaminated than the loose article.

There are a few travelling retailers in the District. Frequent samples are taken by your Sanitary Officers for analysis at the laboratory, and a check is made on the standard of hygiene and cleanliness of the vehicles of retailers. One travelling retailer was cautioned as to the use of washing facilities.

No. of samples analysed	79
No. of samples resulting in Grade 1	79
No. of samples resulting in Grade 2	—
No. of samples resulting in Grade 3	—
No. of samples resulting in Grade 4	—

### **Licenced Premises.**

Routine visits of your inspectors are made to the licenced premises in the District to examine washing facilities and general cleanliness.

Informal action was taken in relation to one premises where facilities for the washing of glasses was inadequate. This case resulted in extensive improvements by the Brewery owners.

During the past few years the standard of hygiene in the licenced premises in the District has improved considerably.

### **Food Poisoning.**

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the District during the year.

### **Disease of Animals Acts.**

Notifications of suspected Anthrax notified during 1953 ....	45
Notifications confirmed as Anthrax .... .... .... .... .... .... ....	4

### **Swine Fever.**

Two casualty pigs were confirmed as cases of swine fever during the year.

### **Meat Inspection.**

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in Council's area during the year under review, with particulars of each class of animals found to be unfit for human consumption are shown in the following table in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health.

YEAR 1953.	BEASTS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS	TOTAL
Numbers killed .... ....	431	1085	1956	3338	1994	8804
Numbers inspected ....	431	1085	1956	3338	1994	8804
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcases condemned	9	298	169	23	108	607
Part carcases .... .... ....	152	388	350	371	918	2179
Percentage affected ....	37.3	63.2	26.5	11.8	51.4	31.6
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcases condemned	—	58	2	—	12	72
Part carcases .... .... ....	65	182	—	—	82	329
Percentage affected ....	15.9	22.1	0.1	—	4.7	4.5

16 cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The total weight of carcase meat and offals condemned by your Food Inspectors as unfit for human consumption was 89 tons 12 cwts. 14 lbs.

## Disposal of Condemned Meat.

Condemned meat after it has been cut and coloured is collected from the slaughterhouses by contractors for treatment and disposal for purposes other than human consumption.

## Inspection of other Foods.

The weight of canned meat and other foods at local shops and depots found to be unfit for human consumption was 2 cwt. 15 lbs. This was buried on a Council Refuse Tip or burnt in the boiler furnace of a local works.

## Cysticercus Bovis.

27 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered during the year 23 cases in cows and 4 in beasts.

These sited as follows.

	HEART	MASSETER AND DIAPHRAGM	ALSO AFFECTED
Cows	23	7	
Beasts	4		1

Details were sent to the Ministry of Food in accordance with Circular M.F. 5/48.

The carcases were sent for refrigeration for 21 days as recommended by the Ministry.

## Food Adulteration.

The following report of work under the adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, has been supplied by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council, in relation to the year ending December 31st, 1953.

NATURE OF SAMPLE	NUMBER OBTAINED	NUMBER ADULTERATED	
		TO THE RECOGNISED	OR NOT UP
Cream (Tinned)	1	—	—
Fish Paste	1	—	—
Glycerine	1	—	—
Jelly (Table Lemon)	1	—	—
Meat (Tinned)	1	—	—
Milk (Condensed)			
Full Cream Sweetened)	1	—	—
Milk	31	18	—
Peas (Dried)	1	—	—
Rum	2	—	—
Sausages	1	—	—
Whisky	1	—	—
	42	18	—

To quote Mr. Hallard "Whilst the number of non-standard samples is exceptionally high there may be slight consolation in the knowledge that two farmers only were responsible for the samples that were seriously 'watered'."

## PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928/36.

## Petroleum Stores.

The Council is responsible for conditions under which petroleum spirit or mixtures are stored in the District. Close co-operation is maintained with the County Fire Brigade who periodically inspect stores of inflammable materials under the Fire Services Act, 1948. The Council enforce the provisions of the Petroleum Act but no formal notices were served during the year.

Number of existing licences to store renewed in 1953	97
Number of new stores inspected and licenced	5
Number of transfers of licences	—
Total number of licenced stores on the register at December, 1953	102

**National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 50 (Burial of the Dead).**

No action was called for during 1953 under the above Section of the Act.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

The licencing of any premises including a stall or market barrow, where pet animals are sold is a duty of this Council.

No licences under the Act have been granted during the year.

## Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

No applications for registration under the Act were received during the year.

There are certain upholsterers in the District who repair soft furnishings, but at present they are excluded from the requirements to register.

## Local Legislation.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 Part 3 (adopted August 12th, 1890).

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 Section 1 (adopted April 5th, 1938).

## Building Bye-laws adopted September 2nd, 1939.

The adoption of the new Building Bye-laws and the adoptive sections of the Cheshire County Council Act 1953 are under consideration.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**South-West Cheshire  
Divisional Health Committee**

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**ANNUAL REPORT  
1953**

**Dr. WALTER J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.**  
*(Divisional Medical Officer)*

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Chester  
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# ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH SERVICES OF SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 1953

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the work of the Divisional Health Committee for the year 1953.

Councillor J. Groome, representative of Ellesmere Port Urban District Council, continued as Chairman. Owing to the resignation from the Committee of the Deputy Chairman, Councillor S. Grimshaw, representative of Chester Rural District Council, on grounds of ill-health, Mr. W. H. Backhouse of Ellesmere Port, was elected Deputy Chairman.

The Committee has held eleven meetings during the year, the average attendance being fourteen members out of a total of thirty-seven.

The Division comprises Ellesmere Port and Hoole Urban Districts and Chester and Tarvin Rural Districts. The total population, according to the Registrar General's latest figures (mid 1952) is 83,063, and the area is 116,086 acres, which is the equivalent of 0.7 persons per acre. The number of inhabited houses is approximately 23,212, and the combined rateable value approximately £526,000.

For the past five years, the Committee has occupied itself with the establishment and expansion of the Health Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which were delegated to it by the County Council. Although full expansion is not yet complete, most of the services now show signs of more stable working conditions.

The Ambulance Service shows small increases in direct mileage and the number of patients carried, and a consequent reduction in the use of supplementary vehicles, taxis, etc. The cost per mile of both Ambulances and Sitting Cars is less than the average for the rest of the County. It is hoped that the construction of a new Ambulance Depot will be commenced in 1954.

With the completion of repairs to the Village Hall at Ince, a new Welfare Centre was opened there in April, and commenced regular fortnightly Child Welfare Sessions.

The Day Nursery at Little Sutton was closed by the County Council in May as a measure of economy on account of continued small attendances; and arrangements were made for the conversion of the building for use as a much needed Welfare Centre and Dental Clinic in this area. Attendances were well maintained at the Day Nursery at Ellesmere Port throughout the year.

The Domestic Help Service shows a marked decrease in costs and a small increase in receipts. There has been a decline in the considerable activities of this Service over the past year. During the early years since 1948, the Service had greatly expanded, and there was in consequence a steep rise in costs. The County Council instructed the Committee, in the interests of economy, to curtail the Service both in respect of the number of hours allotted to each case, and in the number of Domestic Helps employed, so as to reduce expenditure. Details are outlined in the report.

With regard to the medical statistics included in the report, it will be noted that there is again an increase in the number of cases, chiefly Pulmonary, on the Tuberculosis Register.

In relation to the general notification of Infectious Diseases, there was a decline in the number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough notified, and an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever. There were no cases of Diphtheria in the Division.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the support received from the Chairman and Members of the Committee throughout the year. My thanks are also due to the County Medical Officer and his staff for their generous help, to Mr. J. H. Moore-Dutton, the Clerk of the Committee, and the Divisional Office staff, for their helpful co-operation on all occasions.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

# CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Report for Year ended 31st December, 1953

N.H.S. Act, 1946 (Section 22) — Care of Mothers and Young Children.

### A. Mothers' Clinics.

	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Ante-Natal	484	2,918
Post-Natal	174	214
Dental:		
Pre-Natal	8	11
Nursing Mothers	2	3
Dentures Supplied	—	—

### B. Young Children's Clinics.

	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
(1) Infant Welfare—		
To 1 year	962	10,286
1-5 years	3,687	
(2) Specialists—		
Ophthalmic	37	121
Dental Treatment (under 5)	110	122
E.N.T. (under 5)	70	75

	DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL ATTENDING ATTENDANCES
(3) Day Nurseries		
Aged 0-2 years	13	3,545
2-5 years	33	9,096

Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic are given hereunder.

Eye Clinics—

	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Hoole .... .... .... .... ....	11	20
Ellesmere Port .... .... .... ....	26	101
Totals .... .... .... .... ....	37	121
Number of Children under five for whom spectacles were pre- scribed .... .... .... .... ....	19	
Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment .... ....	15	

Ante and Post-Natal Clinics—

Hoole—

Ante-Natal .... .... .... ....	21	46
Post-Natal .... .... .... ....	24	48

Ellesmere Port—

Ante-Natal .... .... .... ....	463	2,872
Post-Natal .... .... .... ....	150	166

Day Nurseries

	DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL ATTENDING ATTENDANCES
Ellesmere Port—		
Aged 0-2 years .... .... ....	14	3,408
Aged 2-5 years .... .... ....	30	7,305
Little Sutton—		
Aged 0-2 years .... .... ....	2	137
Aged 2-5 years .... .... ....	18	1,791

Day Nursery, Little Sutton, closed on 31st May, 1953.

Welfare Centres—

	NEW CASES 0-1	TOTAL 0-1	ATTENDANCES 1-5
Barrow .... .... .... ....	14	126	147
Ellesmere Port .... .... ....	350	3,631	891
Farndon .... .... .... ....	10	124	102
Hoole .... .... .... ....	150	1,567	265
Huntington .... .... .... ....	34	269	152
Kelsall .... .... .... ....	37	335	241
Little Sutton .... .... ....	108	1,350	484
Malpas .... .... .... ....	24	211	173
Overpool .... .... .... ....	62	612	166
Saughall .... .... .... ....	44	508	289
Tarvin .... .... .... ....	17	175	174
Tattenhall .... .... .... ....	19	174	205
Upton .... .... .... ....	79	1,076	363
Ince .... .... .... ....	14	128	35
Totals .... .... .... ....	962	10,286	3,687

## SPECIAL COMMENTS

### WELFARE CENTRES AND DAY NURSERIES

#### Welfare Centres.

INCE—A new Welfare Centre commenced to hold fortnightly sessions at the Village Hall in April to serve Ince and neighbouring parishes.

LITTLE SUTTON—Following upon the closure of the Day Nursery at the end of May, the existing Welfare Centre was transferred from the Methodist Hall in July and continued its regular weekly sessions at these premises. Dental, School and Ante-Natal clinics also commenced regular sessions.

HOOLE—The Ministry of Food were provided with facilities for the sale and distribution of National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice, at the Welfare Centre during Clinic Sessions.

#### Day Nurseries.

Both Day Nurseries had new and larger hot water boiler systems installed in order to provide a better supply of hot water.

LITTLE SUTTON—Owing to continued low attendance, the County Council decided to close this Nursery at the end of May, and to use the premises as a much needed Welfare Centre and Dental Clinic in this rapidly growing neighbourhood. Plans were submitted to the Committee by the County Architect for the conversion of the building for this purpose. Redundant equipment was either transferred to Ellesmere Port Day Nursery or to the County Store at Winsford.

ELLESmere PORT—Attendance continued at a high level throughout the year, especially after the closure of the Little Sutton Day Nursery.

The general health of both children and staff was good, and the incidence of Infectious Disease was low.

During the summer recess the two main Nursery rooms had their floors relaid with Marley tiles and some re-decorations were carried out in these rooms.

50 Tubular steel chairs were re-canvassed at a cost of £30.

Toys to the value of £10 were purchased, and a successful children's party was organised by the Matron and Staff for the children.

Four applications were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year for reduction in fees, in each case a reduction was granted.

A comparative Statement on the costs of Day Nurseries for the year ended 31st March, 1953, was received from the County Treasurer, and the daily cost per child during the year was as follows:—

1951/52—9/10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. 1952/53—10/7d.

Average cost throughout the County was—

1951/52—9/3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1952/53—11/3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

### (SECTION 23)

#### MIDWIVES

Number of Births (adjusted for inward and outward transfers)—  
1725 (including 33 Stillbirths).

### (SECTION 23/25)

#### MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

##### Transport.

A variety of repairs were carried out to the County owned cars used by the District Nurse and Midwives.

A Sub-Committee to advise on County owned cars used by the District Nurses and Midwives was appointed.

Members—Messrs. V. Ball, R. Seddon, T. L. Trelfa.

##### Accommodation.

The District Nurses for Malpas and Saughall were allocated houses by the Tarvin Rural District Council and the Chester Rural District Council respectively.

In those cases where the accommodation and furnishing of premises for District Nurse/Midwives has been the concern of the Committee, the invaluable help of the lady members is much appreciated.

### (SECTION 26)

#### VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Total fees paid for the period 1.1.53 — 31.12.53 amounted to £406 0s. 0d.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A. Vaccination.	Males	Females	Total
<b>1. Primary Vaccination.</b>			
(1) Pre-School Children ....	286	303	589
(2) School Children ....	10	6	16
(3) Adults .... .... ....	8	19	27
Total ....	304	328	632

2. Re-Vaccination.

(1) Pre-School Children ....	1	2	3
(2) School Children .... ....	3	3	6
(3) Adults .... .... ....	37	60	97
	—	—	—
Total ....	41	65	106
	—	—	—

B. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Incomplete.

(1) Pre-School Children ....	106	105	211
(2) School Children .... ....	38	51	89
	—	—	—
Total ....	144	156	300
	—	—	—

Completed.

(1) Pre-School Children ....	375	396	771
(2) School Children .... ....	53	84	137
	—	—	—
Total ....	428	480	908
	—	—	—

Re-Immunisation.

All Children .... .... .... ....	1,535	1,491	3,026
----------------------------------	-------	-------	-------

C. OTHER IMMUNISATION (e.g. Whooping Cough).

(1) Pre-School Children ....	30	36	66
(2) School Children .... ....	8	5	13
	—	—	—
Total ....	38	41	79
	—	—	—

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1953.

(SECTION 27)

AMBULANCE SERVICE

	No. of Vehicles 1	Total No. of Journeys 2	Total No. Patients carried 3	No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys included in Column 3 4	Total Mileage 5
A. Directly (Amb.) ....	5	3050	7338	586	80021
Provided (Cars) ....	2	1096	3072	18	47245
B. By Agency (Amb.) 5		922	922	190	8610
(Cars) —		—	—	—	—
C. Supplementary (Amb.) —		—	—	—	—
W.V.S. Taxi, (Cars, etc.) —		116	199	—	2177

It will be observed from the Table set out below that mileage performed by vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service compares favourably with the previous year.

		Mileage 1952	Mileage 1953
C.C.C. Ambulances	.... .... ....	71761	80021
C.C.C. Cars	.... .... ....	53658	47245
Totals	.... .... .... ....	125419	127266

A Comparative Statement on the costs of the Ambulance Service for the year ended 31st March, 1953, was received from the County Treasurer, and the cost per mile was as follows:—

	1951/52	1952/53
Ambulances	.... .... ....	1/6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.
Sitting Case Cars	.... ....	1/0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

The average cost throughout the County was:—

	1951/52	1952/53
Ambulances	.... .... ....	2/3d.
Sitting Case Cars	.... .... ....	1/3d.

### Staff.

The Committee recommended the promotion of the Senior Driver, E. Clapperton to the post of Ambulance Supervisor.

Three members of the Ambulance Service were awarded Safe Driving Diplomas by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

There have again been several changes amongst the Ambulance Staff, details as follows:—

- Ambulance Drivers—resigned—3.
- Ambulance Drivers—appointed—1.
- Ambulance Attendants—appointed Drivers—2.
- Ambulance Attendants—resigned—2.
- Ambulance Attendants—appointed—4.

New and Developing Industries in the Ellesmere Port area offer more attractive remuneration and this appears to be the main reason for frequent changes of staff. An additional reason is the unsatisfactory accomodation at the Depot.

Uniforms were purchased at a cost of £108.

### Depot.

Consideration of the provision of a new Depot has been deferred for twelve months, and it is understood that such provision will be made by the County Council in 1954/55.

A new Morris Commercial Sitting Case Ambulance was delivered in June, originally for the purpose of transporting Mentally Deficient children in the Wirral area to the recently established Occupation Centre at New Ferry. The arrangement was not proceeded with, and the vehicle is used in the normal Ambulance Service.

The establishment of vehicles and personnel as fixed by the Divisional Committee and approved by the County Staffing Committee is as follows:—

Vehicles	Personnel
Ambulances .... .... .... 5	Supervisor .... .... .... 1
Sitting Case Cars .... .... 2	Ambulance Drivers .... .... 3
	Ambulance Attendants .... 4
	Sitting Case Car Drivers .... 2
	Part Time Drivers .... .... 2
—	—
7	12
—	—

### Civil Defence.

The old Rolls Royce Ambulance was formally transferred to the Civil Defence Service and its valuation placed at £150. This Ambulance is obsolete and spare parts are difficult to obtain. These facts were brought to the notice of the County Health Department, and a redundant 1938 Austin Ambulance was transferred from Hyde Division for the use in this Division for Civil Defence. The value of the Austin Ambulance was placed at £200. At the end of the year no decision had been reached as to the disposal of the Rolls Royce.

### (SECTION 28)

## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER-CARE TUBERCULOSIS

### A. Number of Cases investigated in Division:—

#### (1) Tuberculosis—

- (a) No. of forms C. & A.C. 4 completed .... .... .... .... .... 55  
(Primary Investigation).
- (b) No. of forms C. & A.C. 22 completed .... .... .... .... .... 479  
(Follow-up Visits).
- (c) No. of cases where patient has been found to have:—
  - (a) Removed from area .... .... .... .... .... .... 9
  - (b) Been cured .... .... .... .... .... .... .... 1
  - (c) Died .... .... .... .... .... .... .... .... 7

- (2) Other than Tuberculosis .... .... .... .... .... .... .... 47

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B. Number of Cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Act) .... .... .... .... .... .... .... Nil

C. Particulars of loans of nursing equipment—A hospital type bed with lifting apparatus and a latexfoam mattress were purchased at a cost of £24 4s. 3d. for a paraplegic case.

Repairs were effected to two chalets in the possession of tuberculosis patients for the sum of £13.

#### **CONVALESCENCE.**

The sum of £155 was allocated for the year ending 31st March, 1954, for Convalescent treatment. Two cases had been recommended for convalescence, one of which was found to need hospital treatment and arrangements were made for his admission to Heath Lane Hospital. The other case is at present waiting for a vacancy at the Brentwood Recuperative Centre near Manchester.

Statistics relating to cases of Tuberculosis on Notification Registers of District Councils in the Division.

	MALES			FEMALES			TOTALS			Total Cases
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary		
1. Cases on Register at 1.1.53	201	84	285	199	72	271	400	156	556	
2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year ...	48	1	49	35	2	37	83	3	86	
3. Number of cases removed from register during year ...	...	12	—	12	5	—	5	17	—	17
4. Cases on Register at 31.12.53 ...	237	85	322	229	74	303	466	159	625*	

\* This figure is made up as follows:—

	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1. Ellesmere Port U.D.C. ....	218	73	291
2. Hoole U.D.C. ....	56	10	66
3. Chester R.D.C. ....	117	31	148
Tarvin R.D.C. ....	75	45	120
Totals ....	466	159	625

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED 1953**

DISTRICT	DISEASE	1953																							
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	P	Pyrexia	Puerperal			
Ellesmere Port U.D.	—	—	29	29	45	42	—	—	111	97	11	8	—	6	—	—	1	7	5	1	2	—	2		
Hoole U.D.	—	—	1	2	19	14	—	—	9	5	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—			
Chester R.D.	1	—	22	12	29	23	1	3	76	53	51	4	—	—	7	10	—	—	1	1	—	11	—		
Tarvin R.D.	—	—	12	12	15	17	—	—	95	69	24	17	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

There has been a decline in the number of applications for Domestic Helps and in the number of cases attended in the Divisional area. A review of the cases during the year shows that 60% of the cases attended were chronic sick including aged and infirm, and 20% were maternity cases, the remaining 20% were for various causes (including tuberculosis).

Comparative costs for the financial years 1951/52 and 1952/53 based on figures supplied by the County Treasurer:—

	FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31.3.53	FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31.3.52
Hours worked	55852	72410
Cost to the County Council	£6872	£8223
Amount collected	£1824	£1504
Gross cost per hour worked	2/5½d.	2/3¼d.
Amount collected per hour	7¾d.	5d.
Nett cost per hour worked	1/9¾d.	1/10¼d.
Average for the remainder of the County:—		
Gross cost per hour worked	2/6¾d.	2/4d.
Amount collected per hour	8d.	7d.
Nett cost per hour worked	1/10¾d.	1/9d.

Every effort was made, in conjunction with the Health Visitors, to keep the costs down to a minimum without impairing efficiency of the Service.

A revised scale of assessment was introduced with effect from the 1st July, the standard charge being increased to 2/9d. per hour.

- A. Number of New Applications ..... 70
- B. Number of Domestic Helps working—
  - (a) Permanent ..... 1
  - (b) Temporary ..... 37
- C. Number of cases attended ..... 127
- D. Special cases for report ..... 20

Twenty cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year. In four cases, debts were cancelled, twelve cases were referred to the Clerk of the County Council to take steps to recover the arrears.

Two applications for reduction in assessment were not allowed, in one case a reduction in arrears was granted, and in the last case domestic help was not to be supplied.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III

In my capacity as the Representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, I carried out two visits of inspection to Shortwick House, Great Saughall. Very little change had taken place since 1952 and the excellent conditions of this establishment continued to maintain a high level.

### MEETING OF COMMITTEE

A communication was received from the Clerk of the County Council with the suggestion that Divisional Committee meetings be held bi-monthly instead of monthly, as a measure of economy. After due consideration following initial deferment of any decision for a few months, the Committee resolved to continue the practice of monthly meetings, and left the decision to cancel any meetings, in the event of insufficient business, to the discretion of the Chairman.

### DIVISIONAL OFFICE STAFF

The Chief Clerk, Mr. G. O. Ellis, secured another appointment and resigned his post in October. He was succeeded by Mr. F. McLelland of Birkenhead, who commenced duty in November.

The Committee expressed their appreciation of the services of Mr. Ellis and their good wishes for his future success.

### ESTIMATES 1954/55

Estimates for the year 1954/55 were submitted, and following is a summary of the items recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates:—

	£
Welfare Centres	2,510
Day Nurseries	1,705
Midwifery	80
Health Visiting	20
Home Nursing	1,410
Vaccination & Immunisation	545
Ambulance Service	5,420
Prevention of Illness, Care & After-Care	235
Domestic Helps	3,850
Administration	3,617
	<hr/>
	£19,392
	<hr/>



